

HB 2043 -- School Accreditation

Sponsor: Neth

This bill specifies that no further school board elections for the Kansas City school district will be held after July 1, 2013. Effective July 1, 2012, after a second declaration of unaccredited status within 15 years after January 1, 1998, the authority of the Kansas City school board will be transferred to a special administrative board of a district that is coterminous with the district, to be known as the Renewed School District of (name of city). Effective July 1, 2013, the underlying Kansas City School District will lapse. The special administrative board will have five members, three selected by the Commissioner of Education within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and two by the mayor of Kansas City. The election and director qualifications for the Kansas City school board do not apply to special administrative board members, except that two of the commissioner's appointees and one of the mayor's must be registered voters of the district at the time of their appointment. The board must select a president by July 31, 2012, and must select a chief executive officer who will have all other powers and duties as a superintendent.

The powers and duties of the special administrative board include:

- (1) Managing schools, directly managing the top performing quartile of schools, and serving as a sponsor to public schools converted to renewal charters;
- (2) Setting the tax levy;
- (3) Facility oversight, with right of first refusal for acquisition of surplus buildings offered to charter schools;
- (4) Employment of staff, including authority to require reapplication for employment;
- (5) Continuation of nonpersonnel contracts with a specified exception; and
- (6) Development of a community outreach plan by December 31, 2012.

The provisions of the bill cannot affect signature school admissions criteria. Principals must be evaluated on the effectiveness of their academic and financial leadership.

The special administrative board will issue requests for proposal

of operators for renewal charters for the schools in the lowest three quartiles, as determined by Missouri Assessment Plan index scores averaged over a three-year period as described in the bill. Up to five schools may be operated under one renewal charter and governing board. Seats may be reserved for students who were attending the school before its conversion. After one charter period, the special administrative board may retain sponsorship, seek an independent sponsor, or return the charter school to traditional school status. The charter process for other charter schools is not affected. Renewal charter schools will be subject to the accreditation standards of district schools.

Student transfer procedures for attendance in other districts will continue until the renewed school district has attained provisional accreditation for three consecutive years. Students at that point may finish high school in the district where they have been attending but no new transfers will be permitted.

The renewed district will continue until it achieves full accreditation for three consecutive years but at least until the end of the 2017-2018 school year. The residents of the district will then vote to continue under the special administrative board or to become a seven-director district. If the voters choose to become a seven-director district, the special administrative board will assign seat numbers and staggered terms as provided in Section 162.241, RSMo. If the voters choose to continue the renewed district, at least five years must elapse before another election is held on the subject.

The bill contains an emergency clause.